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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6690

BILL NUMBER: SB 193

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 30, 2006

BILL AMENDED: Jan 27, 2006

SUBJECT: Controlled Substances.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Bray

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill has the following provisions:

Destruction of Chemically Contaminated Equipment: The bill permits the destruction of chemically contaminated equipment used in the illegal manufacture of a controlled substance if certain conditions are met.

Retailer's Log of Sales: The bill provides that a law enforcement officer has the right to inspect a retailer's log of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine sales.

Criminal Penalties: The bill prohibits the possession of two or more precursors with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance, and makes the possession of anhydrous ammonia with the intent to manufacture amphetamine a Class D felony that may be enhanced under certain circumstances.

Notification of Department of Child Services: The bill requires a law enforcement agency that discovers a child less than 18 years of age at a drug laboratory to notify the Department of Child Services.

Reporting Methamphetamine Abuse: The bill defines "methamphetamine abuse" and requires law enforcement agencies to report methamphetamine abuse to the Criminal Justice Institute.

Methamphetamine Crimes: The bill removes methamphetamine from the crimes of: (1) dealing in cocaine, a narcotic drug or methamphetamine; and (2) possession of cocaine, a narcotic drug or methamphetamine; and establishes new crimes of dealing in methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine.

Conformance: The bill makes conforming amendments.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 2006.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Criminal Penalties:* There are no data available to indicate how many more offenders would be convicted of possession of a precursor, a Class D felony (or a Class C felony, under certain circumstances), as a result of adding amphetamine to the possession of anhydrous ammonia or ammonia offense, or replacing the specific substances with the broader term 'controlled substance' for the possession of two reagents offense.

Background on Criminal Penalties: In 2004 and 2005, there was an average of 22 offenders a year committed to a state prison facility for Class C felony possession of a precursor, and between 2001 and 2005, there were 64 offenders a year committed for the Class D felony. (Specific information about the details of the crime are not available in the Department of Correction (DOC) data). The average length of stay in DOC facilities for all Class C felony offenders is approximately two years and for all Class D felony offenders is approximately ten months.

Destruction of Chemically Contaminated Equipment: Based on current Indiana State Police practice, costs would remain unchanged if law enforcement agencies are allowed to destroy chemically contaminated equipment including drug paraphernalia under certain circumstances.

Notification of Department of Child Services: Under current law, a law enforcement agency would have to notify DCS if there are children under the age of 14 years old discovered in a methamphetamine laboratory. Under the bill, the age would be increased to 18 years and the location would be a site for the illegal manufacture of a controlled substance. If DCS has to investigate more sites either because of the increase in age or additional locations, expenditures for investigations could increase. DCS does not identify the costs of investigations separately from costs for services, and there are no data available to indicate how many more investigations may be required.

(Revised) *Reporting Methamphetamine Abuse:* The bill would require law enforcement agencies to report to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) about methamphetamine abuse, including the use, sale, manufacture, transport, or delivery of methamphetamine or its precursors. ICJI will adopt guidelines about the information to be collected and prescribe the forms and manner that information will be reported. Administrative costs could increase for reporting methamphetamine abuse, but the increase is expected to be minimal and will be based on the guidelines adopted by the ICJI.

(Revised) *Background on Reporting Methamphetamine Abuse:* The ICJI is developing a web-based form to collect information, which is expected to cost \$150,000. ICJI expects to have minimal ongoing administrative costs since information will download into a database for analysis. Currently, local law enforcement agencies report information about methamphetamine laboratories to the Indiana State Police.

(Revised) *Methamphetamine Crimes:* Separating methamphetamine crimes from cocaine and narcotic drug crimes is not expected to have a fiscal impact. Currently, local law enforcement provides information to the Indiana State Police on all criminal arrests. The separation will provide more detailed arrest information on methamphetamine crimes.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Reporting Methamphetamine Abuse and Methamphetamine Crimes*: The bill could increase administrative costs for local law enforcement agencies to report methamphetamine abuse to the ICJI. The increased administrative cost depends on the guidelines adopted by ICJI.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Police; Department of Child Services; Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Captain Steve Hillman, Indiana State Police, 317-232-5899; Mike Eslinger, Indiana Sheriff's Association, 317-356-3633; Jason Hutchens, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, 317-232-1300.

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